

pay an initial application fee not to exceed seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) and an annual license fee not to exceed three hundred dollars (\$300.00). In the event the Board refuses to license an applicant, the license fee deposited shall be returned by the Board to the applicant. All licenses shall expire on the last day of December in each year following their issuance or renewal. It shall be the duty of the secretary and treasurer to ~~cause to be mailed~~ send by United States mail or e-mail to every licensee registered ~~hereunder with the Board,~~ notice to the licensee's last known address reflected on the records of the Board of the amount of fee required for renewal of license, ~~such~~ the notice to be mailed at least one month in advance of the expiration of the license. The Board may require payment of all unpaid annual fees before reissuing a license. In the event of failure on the part of any person, firm or corporation to renew the license certificate annually and pay the required fee ~~therefor~~ during the month of January in each year, the Board shall increase the license fee ~~ten per centum (10%) for each month or fraction of a month that payment is delayed; provided that the penalty for nonpayment shall not exceed the amount of the annual fee, and provided further that the~~ by twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) to cover any additional expense associated with late renewal. The Board requires—shall require reexamination upon failure of a licensee to renew license within three years after expiration. The Board may adopt regulations requiring attendance at programs of continuing education as a condition of license renewal. A licensee employed full time as a local government plumbing, heating, or mechanical inspector and holding qualifications from the Code Officials Qualifications Board may renew the license at a fee not to exceed twenty-five dollars (\$25.00)."

**SECTION 4.** G.S. 87-22.1 reads as rewritten:

"§ 87-22.1. *Examination fees; funds disbursed upon warrant of chairman and secretary-treasurer.*

The Board shall charge ~~an—a nonrefundable application and examination fee not exceeding to exceed fifty dollars (\$50.00) one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) for each regular examination provided, examination,~~ and ~~such~~ the funds collected shall be disbursed upon warrant of the chairman and secretary-treasurer, to partially defray general expenses of the Board. ~~Such~~ The application and examination fee shall be retained by the Board irrespective of whether or not the applicant is granted a license."

**SECTION 5.** Notwithstanding G.S. 87-22 and G.S. 87-22.1, as enacted in Sections 3 and 4 of this act, after this act becomes effective and until changed by permanent rule of the Board, the annual license fee shall be one hundred dollars (\$100.00) and the application and examination fee shall be eighty dollars (\$80.00).

**SECTION 6.** This act is effective when it becomes law.